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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

Call for help

Community needed to donate blood for local boy
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Port Colborne blaze

Damage expected to top \$100,000
Page 7

Off grid

Families generating their own electricity
Page 3

Fundraising

Several Niagara agencies amalgamate
Page 8

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HOLIDAY TRADITION: Reindeers get a break as Santa arrives by tugboat

Santa sails into Port for night-time parade

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Santa arrived in style on Saturday in Port Colborne.

A Port Colborne tradition continued when Santa Claus arrived on the tugboat *J.W. Coopert*. He was met by dozens of children waiting to say "hi" to him and ask him questions. He was also greeted by The Music Depot Choir, which sung various Christmas tunes.

Following his arrival to shore Santa led a procession to the Guild Hall where he sat in his trademark chair and welcomed children to hop up on his knee to tell

him what they were hoping to get for Christmas.

It was also an opportunity for parents to get a photo of their youngster with Santa. Free crafting was available for the children and fair-trade hot chocolate was provided by Ten Thousand Villages.

More musical talent met Santa at the Guild Hall, where The Thrifty Balladeers provided entertainment.

Each year for 25 years now, Santa has arrived to downtown Port Colborne by tugboat. The tugboat Santa event celebrates the holiday season and the downtown Port Colborne Business Improvement Area.

Merchants have hosted the event for several years.

"It's a fun afternoon for kids of all ages, and something unique to Port Colborne," said Jeff Ballin, downtown marketing coordinator. "It's another way to thank our customers for shopping in our beautiful downtown area."

Saturday was a busy day for Santa as he took his place at the end of the annual night-time parade, which rolled through Port Colborne this evening.

melissa.mangelsen@summedia.ca



MELISSA MANGELSEN/TRIBUNE STAFF

After much anticipation Santa arrives at Port Colborne on Saturday.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **COMMUNITY:** People encouraged to roll up their sleeves at local donor clinics

Six-year-old boy needs your blood

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Jason Bekker-Thompson didn't look when a Canadian Blood Services nurse put a needle in the arm of his mother Narece Bekker to collect her blood Wednesday afternoon.

It's not that the six-year-old is afraid of needles or blood.

In the past year the Port Colborne boy has had his fair share of needles, undergoing 10 blood transfusions as part of treatment against T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Jason was first diagnosed in November of last year and has been undergoing treatments at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, said Narece.

As his mother gave blood at a Canadian Blood Services clinic at Port Colborne High School, Jason, his older brother Connor, and father Scott were by her side.

Narece said she wanted to give back because Jason has had so many transfusions of blood donated by others.

"A lot of people have supported him," said Narece.

She wanted to create awareness around the fact that blood is needed for people like her son and that is free to give. She said it's something anyone can do to help.

"This is the first time I have donated in 15 years or so ... I used to donate blood when I lived in South Africa," said Narece.

When she decided to

donate this week, Narece asked her family and friends to come out and give as well.

"There should be 10 or 15 people coming,"

Marla Young, a Canadian Blood Services community development co-ordinator, said the extra people coming to the clinic on behalf of Jason were welcome at the clinic, which is held every month.

"We get about 120 people out each time," said Young, adding there are donors who have given 100 times or more.

Young said there's always a need for blood, especially for people like Jason.

Narece said Jason is doing well, but has "really crappy days, and really good days." When he is treated in hospital for the leukemia, Narece said, Jason has a terrible first week, a decent second week, and by third week he does well.

He had a bad week when the family was in Florida at Disney World, which was one of his wishes made through Make-a-Wish Ontario, said Narece.

While she was giving blood, Narece said Jason's schoolmates at Ecole St. Joseph are holding a toy drive, collecting toys to be donated to McMaster's oncology unit. The toys are given to children undergoing treatment for cancer.

"Steele St. and McKay were collecting toys, too," she said.

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DAVE JOHNSON/TRIBUNE STAFF

Connor, left, and Jason Bekker-Thompson get in close with their mother Narece Bekker as she donates at a Canadian Blood Services clinic Wednesday afternoon at Port Colborne High School. Bekker had 10 to 15 family and friends come out to give blood in support of Jason, 6, who is battling T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

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■ OFF GRID: Families generating their own electricity

Wainfleet

BOB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

WAINFLEET — Let it blow, let it blow, let it blow.

When you derive 70% of your yearly household electricity from wind-generated power, you might be more apt to sing that lyrical variation of the Christmas classic.

Such is the case for a family living off the grid in Wainfleet, where their household electricity needs are provided by Mother Nature.

Simple economics was the driving force behind the Drysdales turning to wind and solar for their energy needs when they built their home on 12 hectares on Garringer Rd. nine years ago.

They wouldn't have it any other way today.

"Where we first looked into this property, there were no power lines out there whatsoever," said Mark Drysdale. "The closest they were was about two kilometres away."

He said Hydro One could not give him a solid estimate for the cost of extending power lines to service his house.

"They gave us an estimate of anywhere from \$10,000 to \$50,000 ... They couldn't give us a lockdown price until we paid them \$1,000 to do a survey, and even at that the total was a guess."

Weighing that guesstimate — and "at that point I was really concerned about where the price of hydro was going" — Drysdale and his wife, Joni, opted for off-grid living.

Twenty-five thousand dollars later, they were generating their own electricity via a 1,500-watt windmill (since expanded to two) atop a 37-metre-tall pole and with 2,000 watts of solar panels that store energy in a battery bank in their basement.

Because Drysdale is a machinist, runs his business — Drysdale Precision Inc. — in a shop on the property, he requires plenty of electricity to operate his heavy equipment. For that, he runs a 100,000-volt-amp diesel generator — not cheap, he paid in the neighbourhood of \$17,000 — which also serves as backup power for the house

should the sun not shine and the wind not blow for two or three days.

On this windy day, which was preceded by about 10 days of high winds, the Drysdales actually have too much energy stored in their battery bank. So they have to "spill" some into a resistor that dissipates the excess energy as heat into the basement (the plan is to redirect that heat into the hot-water tank).

The Drysdales and their daughters Ashley, 24, Alyssa, 22, and Amber, 13, give up none of the creature comforts of a traditional home.

"I never tell my girls to turn off lights or turn off the TVs. I just don't even care, it's free [electricity]," Drysdale said.

Off-grid living means the swapping out of electricity-thirsty appliances like stoves, hot water tanks and clothes dryers for ones powered by propane.

"Everything else is like a normal house," Drysdale said, noting at times there are three TVs turned on at once.

Another home was built near the Drysdales' residence a few years ago, and its owners recently began in Hydro One service. That would decrease the cost for the Drysdales to do the same, but Joni and Mark have no interest in getting on the grid.

"I don't know how many times we've had big storms come over here and people's power has gone out," Joni said.

"My daughters will bring friends over but consider the friends are still on."

"I still would not consider getting in power, unless they offered it to me for free," Mark said.

"That's the only way I would do it. Because honestly, how can you beat getting it from the sun and taking it from the wind and making all the power you need?"

Cam Mather and his wife and two daughters moved to their off-grid home in Tamworth, Ont., north of Naples, from Burlington 15 years ago.

The Mathers know nothing about off-grid living.

"I didn't know the difference between AC and DC electricity," Mather said in a

phone interview. "We were burned out on city life. We home-schooled our kids, so we believed that we could learn what we needed to learn. We met great people who have helped us along the way."

Mather has since become a promoter of renewable energies. He has authored books and conducted workshops on renewable energy at colleges throughout the province.

"I think I got up to speed fairly fast."

The Mather home is powered by a one-kilowatt Bergy windmill and 2,500 watts of solar panels. A solar domestic water heater takes care of their hot-water needs. Backup generation is supplied by a 10,000-watt gas generator. Mather said the generator is needed two or three times a year.

He acknowledges going off grid is not economical unless it is for new construction where power lines must be extended a distance.

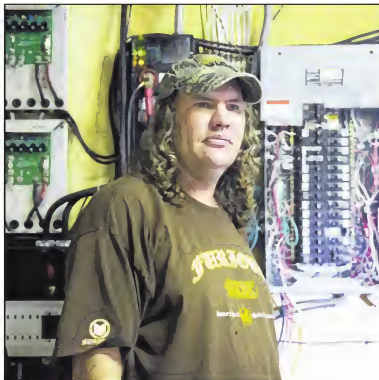
"It's all relative. I just had a young couple approach me in the small town where I live, and they were two electricity poles away from the utility grid and it was going to cost them \$40,000 to get the grid to the house, which to me sounded ludicrous."

"I told them, listen, for 40 grand you can get an exceptional off-grid system." Horizon Utility spokesman Larry Roberts said his company, which supplies electricity to St. Catharines and Hamilton, does not charge for a sight survey. He could not venture a guess as to what Horizon would charge for a hookup that requires more than 30 metres of cable.

"We wouldn't even be able to ballpark it," he said, "because it completely depends on the project. Every one is different."

While it is more convenient to be on the grid, Mather sees it as a good investment.

"By going off grid, you remove yourself from having to pay the (Ontario Hydro) debt-retirement charge and transmission and all that other stuff, for the rest of your life."



JULIE JOCCAS/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Mark Drysdale is photographed by the batteries that store the energy from the wind and solar panels he has to run the his Wainfleet home on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. The home is off of the energy grid, so they rely on solar panels, a wind mill and a generator for power.

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■ ourview

Energy lessons an absolute must

I'd hate to have Bob Chiarelli's nerve in a tooth.

Chiarelli is Ontario's energy minister.

He pretty much told residents of the province to quit their whining and figure out ways to reduce their own electricity use and therefore their power bills. Now there's absolutely nothing wrong with each of us trying to cut costs through energy conservation.

But it is totally unfair that we have to wear mitts and a toque to watch Duck Dynasty while at least two of Chiarelli's compatriots enjoy all the spoils of being members of the legislature at our expense.

Remember, the Liberals bought wins in a handful of ridings in the last election with \$1.1 billion of our money by moving power plants out of Oakville and Mississauga where the residents didn't care for them.

The minister essentially thumbed his nose at any concerns we might have about that and at consumers in general when he announced a new program called "Empowering Consumers Through Energy Literacy" (the subtitle: "Province launches new interactive resource."

"That may sound impressive, but the resource is nothing but a section on the minister's website where visitors can learn about energy. Here's a quote from the minister

that also appears on the site: "We've heard one consistent message from energy consumers, Ontarians and partners: Improving public energy literacy is vital."

It's a message we've heard from others, including the environmental commissioner, the auditor general and the recommendations of the Drummond Report (on reducing government spending). This web feature is a step forward to address this challenge.

The ministry website also goes on and on about all the wonderful things Ontario is doing in the field of renewable energy.

However, I could find no list of the individual ridings that have been trampled in the selection process for wind turbine sites. The only mention of this fiasco is under a different name, the "Green Energy Act."

It's hard to keep track of the number of files that have been mishandled by this government. But energy is probably the worst of the worst. Instead of trying to fix that, the fumbling just goes on and on.

So quit insulting our intelligence with elementary school lessons, get your party to pay back the \$1.1 billion it looted from us for political gain and let's get things back on track.

jermeriam@bmts.com

FR DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St Ignace of Antioch Orthodox Church

Recently, male-church pastor Rick Warren and his wife were on CNN talking about the suicide of their son, Matthew, who had a long struggle with clinical depression. In pain Rick Warren remembered his son saying, "Daddy...it's real clear I'm not going to get any better, so why can't I just die. I know I'm going to heaven so why can't I just die?"

But suicide is a form of murder, and in Galatians 5 St Paul lists murder along with many other sins that prevent those who do them from inheriting the kingdom of God. An Orthodox priest I know had to bury his brother, who had committed suicide. My friend wondered how he could pray for the soul of his brother.

He wondered until he was chanting the prayer in the Liturgy where we lift up the bread and the wine and say, "Thine own of thine own, we offer unto thee, in behalf of all and for all." My friend knew that he and the people were praying also

for his brother as one of us all.

I take comfort from this prayer on behalf of all and for all. The Church's mission is for the whole world—for all—and we pray for the world that God so loved, that he gave his only-begotten Son.

And yet so many terrible things happen in the world. Months ago two bishops from Aleppo in Syria were abducted and have never been heard of since, despite our fervent prayers. In late October Islamist rebels killed 45 women, women and children in Sudan, Syria. More recently a major typhoon killed about five thousand Philippine people.

Years ago a British newspaper asked great men of the time to write about problems of the world. G.K. Chesterton simply wrote a brief letter to the editor, saying, "I am the problem with the world." And of course each of us is the problem with the world until we turn away from ego-building and turn to God and his Christ. There are other problems with the world, like typhoons, but the problem of egotism is at the root

of much evil in the world.

I do not counsel despair. Instead, let us hope in God, who loves us and whose way of salvation starts with each of us turning to Christ in faith.

The late Elder Sophrony tells us that the age-old experience of life in the Church has proven irrefutably that for God no sickness of spirit is incurable. We may be born in unfavorable circumstances. We may suffer every kind of deprivation, loss or injury. All that is unfortunate in the contemporary world may make its mark on us—possess us, even. But from the moment we turn to God, resolved to follow his commandments, a process of basic healing begins.

So let us believe that the things which are impossible with men are possible with God. For example, Christ was born of a Virgin. Christ was crucified and died, but on the third day rose again with a transformed body. Christ sent and still sends the Holy Spirit on his Church, so that those who profess to transform all who believe in Christ, our hope.

Sure-fire signs your dentist might be a quack

David Wu, a 62-year-old Vancouver man, has been ordered to stop practicing dentistry without a licence.

The College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia believes Wu has performed dental work on more than 450 patients working out of his house in Burnaby, B.C.

Now known as the "bedroom dentist," Wu ignored a 2003 court order to stop practicing dentistry and instead continued to take on more clients. Apparently there were very few complaints about the work Wu did and he is certainly not the only one doing dentistry without a degree in Canada.

Rogue dentistry may have something to do with the fact that in this province you can now buy a new car for the same price as intricate dental work. The fact that Canadians are now travelling to Mexico, Costa Rica and Colombia to save money on dentistry might just be a tip-off that Canadian dentists are drilling more than our molars.

But a dentist without a degree practicing in his home where the living room served as the waiting room and the bedroom doubled as the operating room? And there's more: charlatans like Wu out there? How will you know your dentist is an unlicensed impostor? Geez, I'm glad you asked.



HUMOUR

Surefire signs your dentist is a quack:

- When you enter the waiting room, the receptionist informs you that the dentist is running a little late and would you please take a lawn chair.
- The dentist, a well-behaved Doberman sitting at the window that barks every time a police car drives by.
- The sign on the reception desk reads: "Dr. Wu requires a cash payment in cash, non-perishable food products or prescriptions for Oxycontin."
- The framed degree on the wall issued by Acme University offering "Learn Dental Surgery in the Comfort of Your Home."
- Beside the degree on the wall is a framed photo of the dentist, himself, being cured of blindness on stage at a Benny Hill *Fire and Brimstone Rally* in Dallas.
- You're the first patient of the day.
- After the dentist, the dentist's in-law room you notice he's still in his pajamas.
- After the initial examination of your mouth, the dentist puts on a

hard hat, duct tapes your wrists to the armrests and says: "This could get rough."

• There's a donation jar on the dentist's dresser marked "The Tooth Fairy For-Profit Foundation."

• The dental chair you sit in looks suspiciously like the bucket seat from a 1980 Chevy Truck.

• In lieu of any freezing, the dentist offers you a cup of whiskey and asks you to take down hard on a Dentabone.

• You notice the "Dentist of the Year" photo of him on the wall has the handcuffs and leg restraints included.

• A day after a train incident replacement falls out, you discover it's actually a Chiclet.

• After you go through your noon hour appointment, the receptionist comes in and asks: "Who wants to chip in for take-out Chinese?"

• You notice the dentist keeps all his instruments in a "Tim the Toolman" belt strapped around his waist.

• Halfway through a difficult crown insertion, the dentist goes over to the bed and takes a power nap.

• During a consultation for a root canal, the dentist introduces you to an endodontist who you're certain is also your mailman.

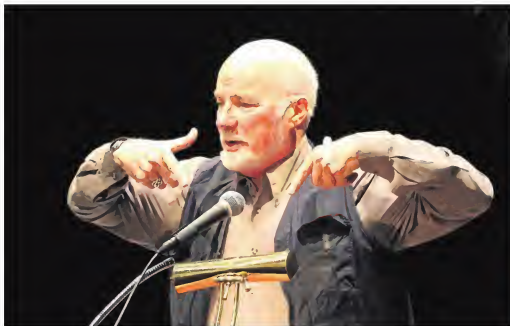
• The dentist describes the location of your three cavities the receptionist comes in with a box of Polyfill.

See THOUSANDS Page 5

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50 Shades of Black



DAVE JOHNSON/TRIBUNE STAFF

Canadian humorist, CBC Radio host and TV personality Arthur Black gestures during the Readings at the Roselawn series event Thursday night in Port Colborne. Longtime host of Basic Black, and author of 15 books, Black read from his latest work, 50 Shades of Black, to a sold-out crowd of 300 people. Black is one of only two writers to win the Stephen Leacock medal three times.

Lack of wisdom teeth won't make you slow

From Page 4

- The dentist extracts the wrong front tooth but offers to put it back in for free.
- The dentist uses the bottom of his B.C. Lions T-shirt to demonstrate flossing.
- You refuse the dentist's offer of a polish after noticing a can of Pledge on the side table.
- The dentist offers to create a space between your two front teeth because he believes it brings good luck.
- In lieu of a suction tube, he has his assistant wad your

mouth up with Bounty paper towels.

- Instead of extracting your eye tooth, the dentist asks you to wear a patch.
- The dentist refuses to extract your impacted wisdom teeth, claiming that it might make you stupid.
- You get a call from your dentist's receptionist asking you to meet a woman named Millie in your neighbourhood to exchange dentures that got mixed up in the mailing.

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■ **MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS:** Only 147 of 6,300 residents reply

Survey says ... 'Fleeters can't be bothered

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — Mayor April Jeffs was disappointed and frustrated by the response from

Wainfleet residents to a survey about township services.

Out of 6,300 residents, only 147 people — 2.6% of the population — responded to the questionnaire posted on the town-

ship website and mailed out to all homes.

"It's frustrating when we hear that we're not doing this or that right, not spending tax money wisely ... and we put this out there and don't hear back," said Jeffs after treasurer Robyn Madore presented the survey result report to township council this week.

done to gather information from residents and help council and staff establish performance levels and help guide strategic policy and planning decisions.

The survey showed that people thought recreation, tourism, retail and other industries were the sectors to attract new economic growth to the township.

The 28-question survey was

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■ **PORT COLBORNE BLAZE:** Damage expected to top \$100,000

Flames rip into rural home

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

Investigators from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office and Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services are looking into a Tuesday morning house fire on Holloway Bay Rd.

Mike Bendia, the city's fire prevention officer, said Niagara Regional Police secured the scene until fire marshal investigators arrived.

"This was a house under construction."

"There have been other fires in

the region that have been properties under construction. We don't believe this is connected to those, but we want to take a look at it," said Bendia.

Damage was put at \$100,000, but Bendia said that figure would rise once he got back inside the house to get a closer look at things.

The home, at 614 Holloway Bay Rd. in the city's rural east end, was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

Homeowners arrived at 6:30 a.m. Bendia said they were staying with relatives in Ridgeway.

He said at the back of the exist-

ing home and the roof was mostly destroyed. The fire was in an area under construction on the north side of the home.

Port Erie firefighters were first to respond at 5:30 a.m. Holloway Bay Rd. is the border between Port Colborne and Fort Erie, with the east side of the road being Fort Erie and the west, Port Colborne. The fire was on the west side of the road.

Port Colborne's fire service was called out at 5:32 a.m. Fort Erie stayed on scene at the engulfed home, assisting with manpower and equipment.

Water was shuttled back and forth from the Michener Rd. area in Crystal Beach to the rural scene.

Police shut down Holloway Bay Rd. between Michener and Sheraton Rds. to allow emergency vehicles access, and Niagara EMS paramedics were on

standby at the scene.

Firefighters were on scene for three-and-a-half hours putting out the fire and extinguishing hot spots. They were called back out at 10 a.m. to extinguish a hot spot that flared up in the attic.

"The wind whipped up and there were some embers blowing around," said Bendia.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

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See Hospital Page 9



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OTITIS MEDIA (EAR INFECTIONS)

About 75% of children will suffer from an ear infection before they reach one year of age. It is a common childhood ailment that is often treated inappropriately.

Many ear infections are caused by viruses and resolve on their own without antibiotic treatment. For every 15 children treated with antibiotics only one will have resolution within 48 hours. Also antibiotics can cause some adverse effects such as diarrhea, skin rashes, allergic responses, and an increase in antibiotic resistance. Most children who have ear infections can be treated with "watchful waiting".

In general healthy children six months and older can be treated with "watchful waiting". Children younger than this and those with other ailments should be treated with an antibiotic. If the oral temperature exceeds 39°C, there is severe ear pain, or your child is extremely ill, an antibiotic should also be considered. You can also ask your doctor for an antibiotic prescription to be used if your child is not improving on their own within 48 to 72 hours. (This way you don't have to make a repeat trip to the doctor).

If your child requires an antibiotic take careful note of the kind of medication and the dose being given. The drug of choice is Amoxicillin given at a high dose (80mg/kg/day) divided twice a day for five days. (If your child is less than two, or has had frequent infections, a ten day course should be given). For children with a penicillin allergy, clarithromycin (BIAKIN) can also be given. There are other choices as well but the above are the most common starting place. If there is no improvement after two days of antibiotics the medication should be changed. If you are seeing a different physician make sure you inform them what type of antibiotic your child has had, and what dose they were on.

All children complaining of ear pain can be treated with ibuprofen (ADVIL), and/or acetaminophen (TYLENOL). This will help to lessen any fever and reduce the pain being caused by the infection.

To help reduce the risk of ear infections it is important to use frequent hand washing, and washing of toys, and linens on a regular basis. Breastfeeding until three months of age can also reduce the risk of infection in a child's first year. Limiting pacifier use and exposure to tobacco smoke can help, as well as limiting daycare in children less than one year of age. It is also important to have your child vaccinated for influenza and pneumococcal infections.

Luckily most kids' ear infections will improve on their own in seven to ten days. Symptomatic treatment of pain and fever is all that is really needed. However, if you feel your child is very ill, make sure you see a doctor and use the antibiotic prescribed appropriately.

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HOSPITAL

Amalgamation will reduce duplication

From Page 8

"This way we will not have duplication of staff roles, and can maximize what we can accomplish in terms of dollars spent and keeping the community aware of the urgent needs of our hospitals," Nieuwesteeg said.

Six hospital foundations in Niagara have agreed in principle to amalgamate.

Nieuwesteeg said the only foundation not yet on board is Niagara-on-the-Lake "due to time constraints," but it hopes to be part of the amalgamation in the "very near future."

Hospital foundations raise money to buy and replace medical equipment. The provincial government funds the bricks, mortar and operations of hospitals.

There has been talk for 20 months about creating the new organization, known as One Foundation.

The amalgamation into One Foundation will take effect in January. The head office will be in Welland. It will have 18 volunteer board members: five from St. Catharines; four from Niagara Falls; three from Niagara-on-the-Lake; three from Welland; two from Port Colborne and one from Fort Erie.

The chairperson will be St. Catharines' Mike Watt. Niagara Falls' Joe Maggloio and Port Colborne's Cindy Thorpe will be the two vice-chairs. Nieuwesteeg, who will represent Niagara Falls on the One Foundation board.

"We will have resources in all of the hospitals. . . just as we do now," said Watt.

The new board will respect donor wishes. Donors in all communities will be able to direct their gifts to sites or programs locally or to regional programs or services such as cardiac, stroke, cancer and mental health. Wishes regarding existing donor funds also will be honored.

The board's next step will be recruiting a chief executive to replace four vacant executive director positions and organize a fundraising committee for the proposed south Niagara hospital on the outskirts of Niagara Falls.

Watt said the board is "absolutely" behind the NHTS proposal to build a new hospital at the corner of Lynx Creek and Montrose Rds. to replace aging sites in Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie, Welland and Port Colborne.

"There has been, obviously, some political division over the new Niagara south hospital, but I think we, as a foundation, need to be seen as speaking with one voice across the region," he said.

"I think that sends absolutely the right message to the Minister (of Health) about how we feel about health care in moving forward."

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Port Museum celebrates old-time Christmas

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Irbene Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Though the rain turned the grounds at Port Colborne's Historical and Marine Museum into mud, it didn't stop both young and old from enjoying an old-time event.

The annual Grand Old Christmas Festival, held on Sunday, had something for everyone. The silent auction was filled

with handmade items and prints of the heritage building, including the museum and Roselawn.

It was the perfect opportunity for people to get in on owning a piece of Port Colborne. The craft sale followed the same theme of having handmade items.

See Festival Page 13



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FESTIVAL

Santa completes fun

From Page 12

This year adding to the excitement was performances by the Music Depot Chorale. The singers were joined by the McKay School Choir who sang.

As chestnuts roasted on the open fire at the museum, horse-drawn

carriages travelled past the museum and actors dressed in old-time clothing added to the feel of taking people back to the past.

Though assistant curator Stephanie Powell-Baswick didn't get her wish to have some 'snowy fun', the people who came out enjoyed the

afternoon.

And like any Christmas event, it isn't complete without Santa Claus who sat inside by a fire waiting for youngsters to sit on his lap and get a photo taken.

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